



A SAFE AND



SECURE CITY

“To provide the highest level of safety for all residents, we need the active participation and support of both the City and our residents in community policing and fire safety programs, as well as nuisance abatement programs, code enforcement, and strong judicial response systems.”

— Connie Hamilton

Chair, Community Safety Task Force

In a great city, citizens are free to fully engage in the life of the community without fear for themselves or their loved ones. Public safety is the most important responsibility of any city government. In the community survey, crime prevention and public safety were the number one concern of Long Beach residents—nine out of ten residents believe that community police substations are critical for their safety.

Our vision of a safe and secure Long Beach builds on efforts by the Police and Fire Departments, whose community policing programs and strategic planning efforts have cut crime, increased efficiency, and implemented a customer-based approach to the delivery of services. We foresee more and more involvement by the residents of Long Beach in programs to control crime and improve the quality of life. With this approach, people will unite with public servants in mutual concern and respect to protect each other, our homes, and our civic spaces from crime, nuisances, and natural disasters.

Goal 1: Extend community policing to all areas of the city

Community policing fights crime by relying on a police officer's familiarity with a neighborhood, its residents, and its special problems and assets. The officer is visible in the community, working as a partner with residents and taking a problem-solving approach. Action steps:

- Make sure the police force keeps community policing as a core focus—through increased problem-solving training in the recruit academy and through ongoing training for officers about the special needs of the neighborhoods they serve.
- Maintain as many officers as possible on uniform patrol.
- Construct two new police substations in the north and east parts of the city, improve existing substations, and upgrade their technological network capabilities.
- Pursue funding to build one Long Beach Justice Center for all courts, prosecution, defense, and central police and fire services.

Goal 2: Encourage public involvement in safety

Community policing goes hand-in-hand with intense public involvement in safety issues. Crime cannot be prevented without citizen participation. Action steps:

- Police and fire departments will provide opportunities for public participation in anti-crime programs.
- Establish a room for community meetings on public safety and other issues in each police substation.
- Publicize anti-crime efforts and other crime information via the internet, newspapers, and other media.
- Provide alternative dispute resolution facilities and services in the neighborhoods.
- Establish fire station/school partnering and mentoring programs.
- Enhance the current Senior Volunteer program by expanding their duties.
- Ensure fire fleet readiness consistent with national standards.
- Encourage public participation in anti-crime efforts such neighborhood watch programs, business and apartment watch programs.

Goal 3: Increase the safety of Long Beach youth

The energy and creativity of our youth must be channeled towards positive activities and away from street gangs and other negative behavior. We must find ways for them to feel protected and productive. Action steps:

- Develop citywide strategies to prevent and respond to youth violence, balancing suppression, intervention, and prevention approaches.
- Increase the number of safe places and job opportunities for youth through collaborative efforts by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine, the Mayor's Faith Leaders for Youth, volunteer senior citizens, parents, and other adults at after-school and evening activities.
- Ensure the City's Gang Intervention and Prevention Program has enough staff and resources.
- Make guns less available to youth by assigning a City Council representative to the Municipal Gun Violence Working Group, nominating a participant in the Women Against Gun Violence Committee, and supporting gun control legislation.
- Encourage community service opportunities in the neighborhoods instead of incarceration as punishment for youth crime, when appropriate.
- Charge the Greater Long Beach Area Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Council with spearheading a collaborative effort to increase access to programs that prevent, intervene in, and educate about child abuse and domestic violence.



Goal 4: Maintain emergency preparedness

We expect our government to respond efficiently and effectively to disasters, whether they are natural or man-made. Emergency preparedness means three things: avoiding or mitigating disasters, staying prepared for them, and responding swiftly to disastrous events. Action steps:

- By December 2002, complete construction of the Emergency Communications and Operations Center to manage local disasters and serious incidents.
- Increase community-based fire prevention and disaster preparedness training in the neighborhoods and reliable state-of-the-art public safety communications systems.
- Implement interdepartmental terrorism preparedness training in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Terrorism Working Group.

Goal 5: Eliminate neighborhood nuisances

Safe neighborhoods increase community "ownership" and responsibility. Action steps:

- Provide and support enhanced programs to reduce homelessness, such as mental illness care, substance abuse interventions, and job training programs.
- Encourage a team approach among residents and the City for nuisance abatement and code enforcement.

- Establish drug-free zones near parks and other public facilities and increase foot and bicycle police patrols in areas of chronic drug vending.
- Promote greater awareness of the problems of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of all citizens through the media and over the internet.
- Eliminate illegal vending, soliciting and panhandling.

